



## **Map #6** **Vegetation**

This map layer includes information on old growth and habitat type groups. The vegetation map layer is still under development.

### **Old Growth**

Old growth forests are considered as ecosystems that are distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes. They encompass the later stages of stand development that typically differ from earlier stages in characteristics such as tree age, tree size, number of large trees per acre and basal area. Specific attributes vary by forest type.

The need to preserve and maintain stands of old growth forest is based on ecological sustainability, including needs for diversity and wildlife, as well as human values. Management considerations within old growth include:

- Old growth forests should be well distributed across the forest, representing various patch sizes, forest types and sites (i.e. dry, moist, and cold forest sites).
- Much of the former western larch and white pine old growth that occurred on upland sites have converted to cedar/hemlock old growth.
- Where upland sites experience periodic moisture stress, some of the old growth forests composed of drought prone species (cedar/hemlock, Douglas-fir) may not be sustainable in the long term.
- Old growth whitebark pine is in sever decline, due to a combination of factors, including insects, disease and plant succession effects attributable to prolonged fire suppression.

### **Habitat Type Groups**

This map displays broad environmental settings that potentially support similar plant communities. Vegetation on the IPNFs has been summarized by Habitat Type Groups (HTGs), which are fairly synonymous with Vegetation Response Units (VRUs) on the KNF. In the following table are the Vegetation Response Units for the KNF and the Habitat Type Groups for the IPNFs:

<b>Habitat Type Groups</b>	<b>KNF Vegetation Response Units</b>	<b>IPNFs Habitat Type Groups</b>
Warm Dry	VRUs 1, 2N, 2S, and 3	HTGs 1, 2 and 3
Moist	VRUs 4N, 4S, 5N, 5S, and 6	HTGs 4, 5 and 6
Cool Moist	VRUs 7N, 7S, and 8	HTGs 7 and 8
Cool/Cold Dry	VRUs 9 and 10	HTGs 9, 10 and 11
Cold	VRU 11	

Combined with existing vegetation maps and other information sources, responses to different types of management scenarios can be predicted and evaluated.

### **Vegetation Map**

Under development... This map will display the existing vegetation using a combination of tree dominance types, size classes and canopy cover categories. This product, combined with other information sources, will be used to analyze resource topics, including timber production, wildfire risk and various wildlife issues.